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The care and support needs of residential care home residents with comorbid cancer and dementia: A qualitative review and ethnographic study.

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Background

Prevalence of cancer and dementia are strongly related to age. In the UK, 70% of care home residents have dementia. By 2040, older people (aged 65+) will account for 77% of all people living with cancer. Residents with only one of these conditions may have complex care needs. Having comorbid cancer and dementia (CCD) is likely to bring further challenges. This is the first research project to examine the care and support needs of people with CCD living in residential care homes and areas for improvement.

Aims

To explore: (1) The care and support needs of people with CCD living in residential care homes. (2) What constitutes good care for people with CCD, their family/supporters, and residential care home staff. (3) Potential barriers and facilitators to providing good care for people with CCD.

Methods

(1) Literature review to examine implications for cancer-related care for people with dementia living in residential care homes. (2) Interviews with 5-10 men and women with CCD, their family members/supporters, and residential care home staff. (3) Ethnographic observations of 5-10 people with CCD to further explore barriers and facilitators to good care.

Results

Emergent findings from the literature review will be presented, and their implications for supporting people with CCD living in residential care homes discussed.

Conclusions

Findings from this study will help improve the care and support of people with CCD and will contribute to a wider programme of research exploring the cancer care needs of people with dementia across a variety of care settings.

